



Compassionate and Included Communities Forum
Wednesday 16th June 2021
3pm – 5pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Hannah Gray (HG) (Chairperson)	Strathcarron Hospice
Laura Jamieson (LJ) (Minute Taker)	CVS Falkirk and District
Dani Lisney (DL)	Outside the Box
Martin Allen (MA)	Forth Valley Sensory Centre
Susan Docherty (SD)	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre

Apologies:

Claire Bernard (CB)	CVS Falkirk and District
Scott Malcolm (SM)	CVS Falkirk and District

1. Welcome and Introductions

HG introduced herself, welcomed forum members present and advised the meeting was recorded via Zoom. Introductions were made by forum attendees, along with background on their roles and what their organisation had been focusing on during the pandemic.

HG then reminded members of the [Camerados](#) “spoon rooms” model, used as today’s format, and highlighted the [Camerados principles](#), which would be used throughout the meeting.

2. "What are you planning for the summer?"

HG invited members to speak on the above topic, with 4 minutes each to share their updates (per the Camerados model). Members were encouraged to share whatever they felt they needed to, whether personal, professional, or a mix of the two.

Attendees then provided updates, both personal and professional, on their recent activities. Discussion mainly focused on the differences to services now that restrictions were easing significantly (with [Falkirk in Level 1](#) at the time of the meeting).

3. Members’ Updates

Members gave their updates as part of the previous discussion topic.

3.1 Strathcarron Hospice

Strathcarron Hospice is continuing its various befriending and [Compassionate Communities projects](#) (including Compassionate Neighbours and Connecting People), which HG anticipates will grow as restrictions ease and people become more comfortable interacting again.

HG has also recently met with an individual looking to develop practical community action in Denny, and possibly a central resource point. They are hoping to hold an event in July to celebrate the local



community, and use this as a vehicle for informal community engagement to ask how people want to be involved in community life.

3.2 Outside the Box

All groups already have or are restarting, including their food groups, which are now able to meet in person for the first time. As a result, DL is looking to hold cookery workshops and community meals (ideally, they would hold 30 before next March). These would be in the Falkirk areas only, and while there is some budget, Outside the Box may not be able to fund all events, dependant on numbers.

Other members noted they would be interested in organising events with DL; one asked about format, and DL confirmed that as long as the activity or event is around food and people, and getting people cooking and eating together, it can take any format (including cooking classes and picnics).

3.3 Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre

While groups are now meeting in person again, the Centre will continue to host online or blended groups, events and meetings for as long as carers want them. They are also looking at a (likely blended) return to the office, but this will depend on their technology and new phone system.

There are also currently a lot of carer engagement consultations taking place at this time (which is a large part of SD's role), including recent [Near Me](#) consultation work, and Falkirk Council's review of the 5 year strategy for their [Care at Home](#) services.

Additionally, the Centre has just put a group of carers through Carer Representative training, where they will input into strategic groups within Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Members spoke about the positives of blended meetings, including around accessibility, which SD agreed with, and noted that they are specifically looking at ways to have people join the Carers Forum meetings by Zoom, and in the Centre. They are keen to hear from carers about what works and what doesn't, both during the blended meetings and what they are doing right now, and to be more accessible and flexible with carers in their own communities.

HG pointed out that a lot of accessibility issues had been known before the pandemic, but as the pandemic had obviously highlighted them, organisations across multiple sectors now seemed to be addressing them.

3.4 CVS Falkirk

LJ spoke about Volunteers' Week 2021, and CVS Falkirk's activities, including the digital [2021 Volunteer Awards Ceremony](#), which is available to view at any time via the [CVS Falkirk YouTube](#).

3.5 Forth Valley Sensory Centre

The Sensory Centre is hoping to start their remaining groups back at the centre over the summer, namely July and August. Online meetings have been good for keeping connected, but have been challenging due to audio issues, so everyone is keen to meet in person again.

MA confirmed they have received funding to run a [new youth group for young people](#) with any sensory disability, running Thursdays and Fridays for 6 weeks, Thursday 1st July – Friday 6th August.



They have also welcomed 2 new members of staff, working on 2 different projects:

- Sara Burns will be leading their new energy project, [Making Sense of Climate Change](#). The project is now funded by Ofgen, and aims to help people with sensory disabilities not only realise that they can make a difference to climate change, but how they can save money on their energy, and help them engage with the services, funders and grants available to them.
 - Sara is available to give talks to individuals, groups and organisations, and can also provide some British Sign Language (BSL) translation during her talks.
- Kim Grant will lead the new employability project, which focuses on accessibility and helping people with sensory disabilities improve their chances of finding employment and training, while also supporting smaller organisations and employers to better understand how they can improve equality in the workplace (including hiring practices, reasonable adjustments and assistive technology).

4. Forum Format and Future

HG spoke about the possibility of altering the forum to fit people's needs in the future, particularly around times. Both HG and LJ confirmed that further changes would be in consideration of how this forum could feed into the [Falkirk Plan](#) and its work, given mental health and wellbeing's priority. This is expected to take place after the finalised Plan is revealed.

5. AOCB

5.1 "Are people cautious or eager about restrictions easing?"

- Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre

SD spoke about the Centre's first in-person event since the pandemic, which took place during Carers' Week and went very well. She noted that not many people had come back to say that they were uncomfortable meeting in-person, and that many people she had spoken to were surprised that the Centre were not yet doing face to face support meetings (though they are offering one to one support to carers).

Respite for carers is still not ideal, due to restrictions, amenities, and isolation requirements (as the person being cared for has to isolate, they normally don't receive the benefits of respite, which should be for them and their carer). SD highlighted that alternative respite measures are working really well – including garden furniture, hot tubs, angling and fishing lessons. The Centre's Respite service has also now restarted. However, it is important to note that no one size fits every carer and cared for person.

- Outside the Box

DL has noticed that a lot of people who attended their groups before the pandemic are very excited to meet again, but that new groups have had a lower uptake. Outside the Box has started holding "public living rooms" (a Camerados idea) during Tuesday lunchtimes; they are thinking about moving



this to evenings, and possibly in the Dunelm café at Falkirk Retail Park, once the café is available again for community groups' use.

HG spoke about public living rooms for those unfamiliar, and that she has seen some held successfully in parks as a result of the pandemic. LJ also mentioned that the Howgate Shopping Centre may be able to provide a space, as they are often keen to work closely with the third sector and communities.

5.2 EU Settlement Scheme: Local Resources and Support

The EU Settlement Scheme closes on **Wednesday 30th June**.

Scottish Government has relaunched their [“Stay in Scotland” campaign](#), encouraging EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to apply so they can carry on living, working, and studying in Scotland.

Children are not automatically covered by their parents' settled status, and [must be applied for separately](#). The Home Office now requires evidence that applying children were resident in the UK prior to the end of the Brexit transition period, on Thursday 31st December 2020.

A range of resources and information are also available for people applying to the EU Settlement Scheme, and those supporting them, including local support, and information from both Scottish Government and the UK Government.

For further information, including local support, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](#) website.

5.3 EU Settlement Scheme: Local Resources and Support

Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI), CVS Falkirk and Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE) will be hosting an online Roundtable Discussion event for our local third sector, to provide feedback to Scottish Government on the impacts of leaving the EU.

The Roundtable Discussion will take place on Wednesday 23rd June, 10am – 11:30am.

During the event, there will be input from officials working in Scottish Government's Division of Organisational Readiness. Attendees will also be asked to consider and provide feedback on:

- “What are the main issues or opportunities from EU Exit now, or in in the next year, for the people that you support?”
- “What are the main issues or opportunities arising from EU Exit for your organisation right now, or that you expect in the next year?”
- “Do you have suggestions of support that could be put in place to mitigate any negative impacts, or to help people realise new opportunities?”

Charities, social enterprises, voluntary and community groups from across the Forth Valley area are encouraged to attend and give their feedback to officials.

To book your place, or for further information, please visit the [Eventbrite](#) page.

5.4 Grangemouth Flood Prevention Scheme Community Sessions

Dates have been announced for online community engagement sessions regarding the Grangemouth Flood Prevention Scheme (GFPS), with the first sessions taking place on Tuesday 15th June.

There will be 2 online **overview sessions** of the entire flood protections scheme, taking place on Tuesday 15th June at 1pm, and on Tuesday 22nd June at 5:30pm.

There will also be 5 separate community online sessions for people in the Grangemouth, Carron, Carronshore, Wholeflats and Langlees areas.

These will give local people the opportunity to feedback on the proposed plans and the design of the flood defences across different areas of the scheme.

For further information, including how to book your place, please visit the [CVS Falkirk](https://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk) website.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th July 2021,
3pm – 5pm, via Zoom**

DRAFT